

A Long History of Diversity



Since 1895, minority officers have contributed to the rich history of the Lincoln Police Department. J.C. Early (back row, second from the right) was the first African American officer on the department.



The article below was in the Evening State Journal on September 18, 1928.

POLICE PAY HONOR TO MAJOR GROSS

City Council, Police Chief and Municipal Judge Lead Procession for Burial of First Motor Cop.

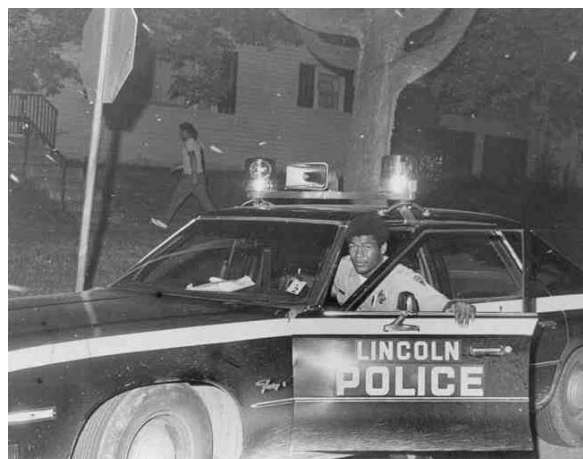
Escorted by six motorcycle officers, their machines draped with crepe, the body of Major Gross, Lincoln's first "motor cop," was taken to Lincoln Memorial park for burial following services at Splain & Schnell's chapel at 2 p. m. Officer Gross died late Saturday as the result of a heart attack.

Members of the city council, Chief Johnstone, Municipal Judge Chappell and a number of patrolmen paid homage to the man who was connected with the city police force for fifteen years. Frank Robbins, Forrest Schappaugh, William Casement, William Maunier, George Meyer and Paul Shively, all of whom have served or are serving on the motorcycle squad, acted as pallbearers. Rev. Walter Altken was in charge of funeral services at the chapel.

Patrolman Major Gross was hired, as a police officer September 15, 1918 and died September 15, 1928. He is reported to be the "city's first motorcycle cop". (Major Gross is in the picture above on the far right.)



Pictured above in back row r-l: Asher Blount and Monroe Williams; front Ben Fischer and Herbert McDowell. Monroe Williams was appointed Night Patrolman June 12, 1933.



In the 1960's the Lincoln Police Department and the University of Nebraska partnered in a summer program that provided students with an opportunity to serve the Lincoln Community as patrolmen. The picture to the left is Patrolmen John Lee, a student from the University of Nebraska.



Lincoln Police Department Continued Commitment to Diversity

The profession of Police Officer has provided me with challenges, security, income, and benefits the qualities everyone looks for in a career. — Capt. Kawamoto

Women have also played an integral role on the Lincoln Police Department. Catherine Riggle and Linda Steinman were both hired as Police Women. Linda Steinman and Genelle Moore both achieved the rank of Sergeant.

Officer Robert Kawamoto was hired on June 30, 1975 and promoted to Sergeant on May 11, 1989. He was promoted to Captain on October 17, 1997.

I have received support and encouragement in pursuit of my goals. I have been afforded every opportunity to succeed. — Team Detective /Sgt. Jeri Roeder



The new Youth Aid Unit in 1984. Seated L-R: Officers Schneider (partially hidden), Riggle, Moore, Sherrill, and Winkler. Standing L-R: Lt. Becker, Ofc. Kawamoto, Det. Steinman, and Chief Leitner. (Journal Star Photo)

In early 1995 women comprised 14.7% of the total police force and ethnic minority people comprised 6.1% . The Police Department continues their recruitment and hiring efforts of minority individuals. Pictured below from left to right are Officers Jeri Roeder, John Pitts, Sr., Teresa Scholl, and Mike Holm.

Officer Jeri Roeder was hired in May 21, 1984 and by January 11, 1996 she had achieved the rank of Sergeant working as a Team Detective. In November of 1999 Sgt. Roeder was selected as a Crime Scene Technician.



I have been a member of the Lincoln Police Department for over 20 years. I am a registered member of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe from South Dakota, my degree of Indian blood is 5/8. I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with some of the most honorable people. My life has been enriched by my experiences. — Officer James Ashley

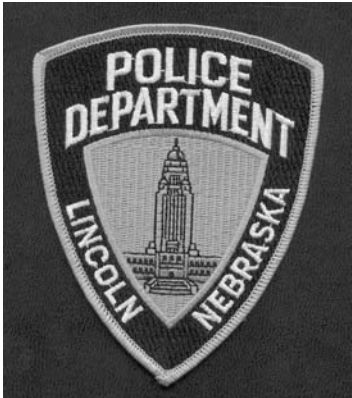


Officer James Ashley 1992

A Department that Believes in Inclusion



Officer Chassidy Jackson above, sings the National Anthem at the Patriot's Day Ceremony on September 11, 2002.



I hope to contribute my own life experiences to the Department and my fellow employees may learn something from me as well. That's how I feel a well organized and diverse organization should work. - Officer Chassidy Jackson



Pictured above is Accident Reconstructionist Vicki Bourg working with the Total Station equipment which is used to reconstruct traffic accident scenes.



Pictured above are the Southwest Team School Resource Officers. From left to right, PJ Schneider, Tami Lang, Mario Robinson, and Mike Engel.



Pictured to the left is Officer Anthony Butler welcoming Hillary Clinton during a presidential visit in 1994. Since Officer Butler's hiring in June 1987 he progressed to a Checks and Fraud's Investigator and was promoted to Sergeant in January 1994. Officer Butler was selected as the Internal Affairs Sergeant in November of 1997. He is now a Southwest Team Street Supervisor.

We are committed to recruit, hire, promote or transfer employees without regard to race, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin, age (40-70), marital status, receipt of public assistance, or political affiliation, except that no person shall be employed who advocates or belongs to a group which advocates the violent overthrow of our government.

Becoming a Lincoln Police Officer was one of my many goals, because of my cousin James Hawkins a former Police Sergeant and SWAT member. His positive image lead me to want to emulate the service he provided to the Department and the Lincoln Community. — Officer Mario Robinson



Officer Guadelupe Lopez is presenting the Colors at an Honor Guard Event in the photo above. In addition to being a member of the Honor Guard, Officer Lopez is a SWAT Team member.